Estimated increase in passenger seats/ATRs

3407. SHRI DHARAM PAL SABHARWAL:
SHRIMATI. PREMA CARIAPPA:

Will the Minister of CIVIL AVIATION be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that with the introduction of more airlines, Indian Airports need more runway, exit routes and trained pilots to operate flights;

(b) if so, the steps being taken by Government in this regard; and

(c) what are the details of aircrafts criss-crossing Indian skies at present and what are the estimated increase in number of seats and ATR's during the next two years?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF CIVIL AVIATION (SHRI PRAFUL PATEL): (a) and (b) Yes, Sir. With a view to reducing congestion and increasing the number of aircraft movement per hour, a Committee under the Chairmanship of Shri K. Roy Paul, former Secretary (Civil Aviation) has been constituted on 29.3.2005 to study the Air Traffic Services (ATS) Management system, capacity problems at airports particularly at Delhi and Mumbai and safety aspects of Air Traffic Management and to recommend short and long term measures to the Government. This Committee shall complete its work and submit its final report within three months.

(c) Necessary details are being collected and will be laid on the Table of the House.

Extension of runway at LGB Airport, Guwahati

3408. SHRIMATI SYEDA ANWARA TAIMUR: Will the Minister of CIVIL AVIATION be pleased to state:

(a) whether the extension work of runway of Lokpriya Gopinath Bordoli International Airport, Guwahati has been completed for landing of Jumbo aircrafts to facilitate the Haj Pilgrims of 2006 of North Eastern Region to go to Jeddah directly, instead of taking them by small aircraft to Kolkata;

(b) whether it is a fact that this year the Haj pilgrims had to wait at Kolkata Airport about 8 to 9 hours because of incompletion of runway to LGB International Airport, Guwahati; and

(c) if so, the details thereof and the reasons therefor?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF CIVIL AVIATION (SHRI PRAFUL PATEL): (a) Extension works relating to runways are generally carried out by Airports Authority of India (AAI) on the basis of firm demand from Airlines. No such demand exists or has been received for Lokpriya Gopinath Bordoli International Airport, Guwahati.

(b) and (c) During the last Haj operations at Kolkata airport in February 2005, only on two occasions Haj Pilgrims from Guwahati had to wait for departure to Guwahati from Kolkata not because of inadequate size of runway at Guwahati airport but due to other operational reasons of the concerned airlines.

Revision in Commission to Agents of AI

3409. SHRI R. KAMARAJ: Will the Minister of CIVIL AVIATION be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that Air India suffered a huge loss due to suspension of sale of its tickets by the Agents of Air India from 1st April, 2005;

(b) if so, the details thereof;

(c) whether it is also a fact that Government have now agreed to to revise the Commission and also agreed to most of the demands of the Agents of Air India; and

(d) if so, the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF CIVIL AVIATION (SHRI PRAFUL PATEL): (a) and (b) No, Sir. Air India has not suffered any loss due to the suspension of sale of tickets by a section of the Agents of Air India *w.e.f.* 1st April, 2005 as a large number of Agents have not joined the boycott and the flights to West bound destinations have operated almost to full capacity.

(c) No, Sir.

(d) Does not arise.

Establishment of new airports

†3410. SHRI KALRAJ MISHRA: Will the Minister of CIVIL AVIATION be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that certain State Governments have sought permission to establish new airports in view of the increasing number of tourists;

†Original notice of the question was received in Hindi.